

## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



### NEWS RELEASE

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### Davis Statement on President's Pandemic Flu Strategy *Committee Hearing with HHS Secretary Leavitt on Flu Plan This Friday*

Washington, D.C. – Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) issued the following statement today regarding President Bush's *National Strategy on Pandemic Influenza*:

“Several international scientists, including U.S. public health officials, have warned that a flu pandemic is the largest public health threat facing the world today. As history indicates, flu pandemics can be expected to occur three to four times each century, when novel flu strains emerge and are readily transmitted from person to person. The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-1919 caused an estimated 40-50 million deaths worldwide, and many experts predict that the next flu pandemic will be just as severe, and may occur sooner rather than later.

“The President’s announced *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza* is a welcomed and positive step toward addressing this threat. The President discussed today not only how the Federal government would respond to a pandemic, but also what could be done in regards to preparation; such as stockpiling treatments, detecting outbreaks, and expanding domestic vaccine production capacity. The details to this strategy will be release tomorrow by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the final *National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan*. **The Government Reform Committee looks forward to discussing this plan further with HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt, our sole witness at Friday’s hearing.**”

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